

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

**In the Matter of the Celebration of
National Pro Bono Week,
October 23-29, 2011**

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PROCLAMATION

The Supreme Court of Idaho hereby proclaims National Pro Bono Week, October 23-29, 2011, as Pro Bono Week in the State of Idaho. The Court adopts and incorporates in full the attached resolution adopted by the Idaho Pro Bono Commission and its constituent members and proclaims Pro Bono Week as a time to honor the work of those who provide volunteer legal services, to address the growing need for civil legal assistance on matters of profound urgency and to remind all Idaho attorneys of their responsibility to assist in meeting the legal profession's sacred commitment to equal justice under the law.

DATED at Boise, Idaho, this 17th day of October, 2011.



Honorable Roger S. Burdick
Chief Justice

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL PRO BONO WEEK

WHEREAS, equal justice and the fair administration of justice are fundamental to our system of government, and we are a nation dedicated to “liberty and justice for all”; and

WHEREAS, the promise of equal justice under the law is not realized for individuals and families who have no meaningful access to the justice system because they are unable to pay for legal services; and

WHEREAS, this de facto denial of equal justice has an adverse impact on these individuals, families, and society as a whole, and works to erode public trust and confidence in our system of justice; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the ongoing economic downturn and the consequent erosion of their financial resources, more and more individuals and families are experiencing critical civil legal problems they cannot afford to address; and

WHEREAS, the timely provision of civil legal aid can help alleviate some of the harshest effects of the economic downturn and prevent a costly spiral of social problems; and

WHEREAS, Idaho’s lawyers and judges strongly support the provision of free-of-charge legal services to those can’t afford them and have joined together in a collaborative effort to support pro bono services through the establishment of the Idaho Pro Bono Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, more than 675 public and private attorneys, working in association with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, provided more than 12,000 hours of volunteer attorney assistance to more than 1,700 low-income individuals and family members, including providing legal representation in more than 700 court cases, amounting to free legal services valued at over \$1,700,000; and

WHEREAS, the graduating class of 2011 at the University of Idaho College of Law compiled approximately 10,800 hours of pro bono services, under the supervision of lawyers and judges, as part of the College’s distinctive pro bono program in which every student participates; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Pro Bono Commission, consisting of the state courts of Idaho, the United States Courts for the District t of Idaho, the Idaho State Bar, the Idaho Law Foundation, and the University of Idaho College of Law, recognizes the need to expand the delivery of legal services to economically disadvantaged persons and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Idaho Pro Bono Commission and its constituent members recognize National Pro Bono Week, October 23-29, 2011, as a time to honor the work of those who provide volunteer legal services, to address the growing need for civil legal assistance on matters of profound urgency, and to remind all attorneys of their responsibility to assist in meeting the legal profession’s sacred commitment to equal justice under the law.

DATED this 17th day of October, 2011, by the IDAHO PRO BONO COMMISSION, and its constituent members: SUPREME COURT OF IDAHO, UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO, IDAHO STATE BAR, IDAHO LAW FOUNDATION, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW.